

Index

SIDE A

- 0 June Jessen Hald was born in Nysted, Nebraska in 1921. Nysted at the time was a small Danish farming community with one general store, which her father owned, a Lutheran Church and a Danish High School.
- 2:00 Her mother was born in Rebba, Denmark in 1891. Her father was born in Nysted in 1893. His parents had just come from Denmark. June's mother and father met in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 3:00 June spoke only Danish until she started school because her grandmother would not allow English to be spoken in the home. She could also read and write Danish.
- 3:00 In Nysted they celebrated all the Danish holidays.
- 5:00 The Danish Independence Day is June 5. On that day during WWI part of Denmark was freed from German control. The Danes credit the Americans with this act.
- 6:00 The two most prominent organizations in Nysted were the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood, which are national. There were many athlectic events.
- 7:00 The Danish-American families were all alike. The men worked entirely outside and the women worked in the house.
- 8:00 The boys took care of the animals and milked the cows. Girls helped their mothers and cleaned the milking equipment.
- 9:00 In the summer the boys helped on surrounding farms and the women and girls tended the gardens and canned.
- 10:00 The Lutheran Church in Nysted was tolerant of drinking, smoking, and dancing. The Danish minister was an important part of the community.
- 11:00 The Jessens came to California in 1939 to escape hard times, so that their children would have a future.
- 12:00 The Jessens opened a restaurant-store in West Sacramento on the Davis Hiway called the Welcome Grove Motor Court. June worked with her parents their.
- 13:00 They met other Danes through a salesman, Chris Jensen, who was a member of the Danish organization, Dania, in Sacramento.

- 14:00 At that time, in the 1940s, the Danish Lodge was very active socially.
- 15:00 Prominent Danes in Sacramento included the Bachs, the Halses, the Jensen brothers, and the Dalgaard family.
- 16:00 The women worked as domestics or in the laundry or potato chip factory. The men worked in canneries and gas stations. "Chicken" Pete had a chicken ranch on 34th Ave. and "Pickle" Larsen, on 32nd Ave. made and sold pickles.
- 18:00 Dania was involved in WWII relief activities.
- 20:00 The Lutheran Church that attracts the most Danes is St. Johns.
- 21:00 About Danish holidays--They start celebrating Christmas on the 23rd of December, Little Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve itself is the time for the big celebration and opening of gifts. Christmas Day is for church and relaxation.
- 22:00 In celebrating birthdays the "Round" years are the most important. The silver and golden anniversaries are very important also.
- 23:00 The Danes are very close to one another and help one another.
- 24:00 June's husband, Harold, was born in Dannebrog, Nebraska, about four miles from Nysted. They knew each other all through school. Harold is also of Danish ancestry.
- 26:00 June believes their marriage has lasted so long because they have a common heritage. Often, when a mate in an older couple dies, they do not remarry.
- 28:00 Silence

SIDE B

- 30:00 June tells several stories relating the misfortunes and misadventures of the Danish immigrants. Language was the main problem. English was not taught in the Danish schools during the first part of the century.
- 36:00 Most of the Danish immigrants were of rural background and most went into farming, or dairying.
- 38:00 Many Danes went to the Danish High School in Nysted, which was established by a minister. There they learned English and basic survival skills and American agricul-

tural techniques.

- 40:00 Junes husband worked for the Hansens at Crystal Creamery for 37 years. They employed a number of Danes. (The Hansen family is Danish-Swedish.)
- 41:00 Danish women were desirable workers in laundries and potato chip factory.
- 41:00 There are now only about 80 older folks in Dania in Sacramento. The younger people are not so interested in their Danish heritage.